

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The rejections presented in the Office Action dated November 1, 2007 (hereinafter Office Action) have been considered. Reconsideration of the pending claims and allowance of the application in view of the present response is respectfully requested.

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowability for Claims 7, 8, 14, 16, 17, 24, 25, 31, 33 and 34.

Consistent with the discussion on page six of the Office Action, independent Claims 1 and 18 have been amended to include limitations indicated as being directed to allowable subject matter. For example, Claims 1 and 18 now include limitations of allowable Claims 16 and 33, respectively; therefore, these changes do not introduce new matter. In view of these changes and the indication of allowable subject matter, each of Claims 1-15, 17-32 and 34 is believed to be patentable over the asserted references.

Thus, based upon the Examiner's acknowledgement that limitations now included in each of the pending claims are not found in the asserted references (at least, JP 2002-082734 to Goto *et al.* and U.S. Patent No. 6,720,860 to Narayanaswami), either alone or as modified, each of the prior art rejections would be improper. Applicant accordingly requests that each of the § 103(a) rejections be withdrawn.

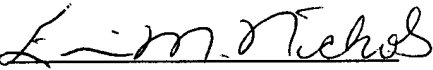
In addition, it should be noted that Applicant does not acquiesce to the Examiner's statements or conclusions concerning what would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, obvious design choices, common knowledge at the time of Applicant's invention, officially noticed facts, and the like. Applicant reserves the right to address in detail the Examiner's characterizations, conclusions, and rejections in future prosecution.

Authorization is given to charge Deposit Account No. 50-3581 (NKO.056.WUS) any necessary fees for this filing. If the Examiner believes it necessary or helpful, the undersigned attorney of record invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney to discuss any issues related to this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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